

VA establishes committee/provides additional funding for professional certification

The Professional Certification and Licensure Advisory Committee (PCLAC) was established in 2001 under Public Law 106-419. PCLAC advises the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (VA) regarding issues related to licensing and certification. This law also provides for payment of VA benefits to eligible individuals to help offset the cost of licensing and certification.

Active duty Service members or veterans with Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB) benefits are authorized

211 organizations already hold VA approval.

In May 2001, the Honorable Anthony J. Principi, Secretary of Veterans Affairs (VA), selected Ms. Sandra Winborne, the DANTES Certification Program Manager, to Chair the PCLAC. In a recent article in a professional journal focusing on certification issues, *Professional Certification eMag*, Ms. Winborne advised organizations who offer professional certification or licensure examinations to seek approval

between DANTES and certifying agencies (more than 50 national organizations) in the last eight years. DANTES involvement with PCLAC and the increase in DANTES MOUs reflect the national attention being given to professional development in recent years. Contributing to this increased interest is the understanding that certification, once achieved, should be maintained throughout one's career.

Other members of PCLAC bring expertise in certification, licensure, testing, psychometrics, assessment, analysis, and education. In addition to Ms. Winborne, the Committee includes Michael A. Clark, General Manager, National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies (NICET); William G. Harris, Ph.D., Executive Director, Association of Test Publishers (ATP); Elizabeth A. Kolmsetter, Ph.D., Transportation Security Association (TSA); Lisa J. Lutz, Senior Policy Analyst, DynCorp I&ET; and Michael C. Martin, Executive Director, Commission on Certification for Geriatric Pharmacy. Some members of the Committee also represent coalitions or guidance organizations such as the National Organization



(L-R) Michael Clark, NICET (Coalition for Professional Certification), Giles Larrabee, of Veterans Affairs (VA), Michael Martin, CCGP (National Organization for Competency Assurance), Sandra L. Winborne, Chair, DANTES, Elizabeth A. Kolmsetter, Ph.D., Transportation Security Association, TSA, Lisa Lutz, DynCorp, Bill Susling, VA, William G. Harris, Ph.D., Association of Test Publishers, Michael Yunker, VA.

reimbursement for professional certification or licensure examinations approved by VA for up to \$2,000 per test. Approved organizations and their exams can be found on these two MGIB web sites: <http://www.gibill.va.gov/education/LCVets.htm> and <http://www.gibill.va.gov/Education/LCweb/search.asp>. Approximately

through the VA. She urged certifying agencies to give military personnel an opportunity to transfer their training and skills into civilian standards of recognition.

The DANTES Certification Program has nearly doubled the number of agreements or Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs)

Continued on page 4, VA

Distance Learning

DANTES Distance Learning news

10 ways to speed up the TA payment process

Want to speed up the tuition assistance (TA) payments? Here's how. (This information should be useful to students, schools and ESOs.)

Be sure the TA form is signed by the approving official. If we get an unsigned TA form, everything stops until we contact the approving official and get him or her to send us a signed form. When the approving official and the student have to send TA forms back and forth during the form's completion process, sometimes an unsigned form gets submitted to the school. When this unsigned form is attached to the school's invoice and sent to us, we can't process it until we get a signed form.

Be sure the TA form is not missing critical information—omitting the number of semester hours the student is taking, for example, is especially effective at bringing things to a halt. Expecting us to pay an amount that is neither 75 percent of the tuition nor the course cap is another show-stopper—for example, 67 percent of the tuition.

Do not send us a TA form that has been copied and/or faxed so often or so badly that we can't read any of it. These forms get faxed, copied and scanned many times during the payment process. After a while, they may become impossible to read. If you have something you can barely read and fax it to us, we probably won't be able to read it at all. This is guaranteed to bring the process to a halt with the added disadvantage of our not being able to do anything about it since we probably won't be able to figure out where it came from. If you really want to speed things up, figure out a way to type the form.

Continued on page 7, TA

DANTES Catalog of Nationally Accredited Distance Learning Programs update

Add the following to the schools affiliated with DANTES:

Allied Business Schools, Inc.

22952 Alcalde Drive

Laguna Hills, CA 92653

(949) 707-5149

Toll free: 888-925-2114

Fax: (949) 461-9556

E-mail: military@alliedschools.com

Internet: <http://>

www.alliedschools.com

Vocational Certificates in:

Administrative Assistance

Computerized Financial

Accounting

Customer Service Specialist

Desktop Publishing

Fundamentals of Bookkeeping

Home Inspection

Intro to the Principles of Small

Business Management

Keyboarding

Legal Secretary

Medical Billing

Office Procedures

Professional Property
Management

Real Estate Assistant

Small Business Marketing

Real Estate Broker (California)

Real Estate Salesperson
(California)

Real Estate Appraisal

The Institute of Logistical Management

The Institute of Logistical Management is a nationally accredited distance learning school focused exclusively on Logistics and Supply for both Military and Civilian application. Students may earn up to 33 college credits and certification as a Certified Logistics Practitioner (CLP). College credits are accepted at Thomas Edison State College, University of Maryland, and numerous other degree-granting colleges and universities. It is approved for Veterans and MGIB. The web site is <http://www.logistics-edu.com>.

DANTES Independent Study Catalog update

University of Arizona

Tuition increase, effective 1 October 2002:

High School Level: \$88 per course

Undergraduate and Graduate Level:
\$131 per semester credit

Calendar

September

21-25 Praxis*
30 Sep-4 Oct CLEP General English Composition w/Essay*

October

4 Excelsior Extended Response (Essay)
5 LSAT

November

7, 12, 14 ASE Conus
11-16 GRE Subject*
12, 13, 14 ASE Overseas
23-27 Praxis*

December

6 Excelsior Extended Response (Essay)
7 LSAT
16-21 GRE Subject*

Notes:

Overseas test centers send orders 6 weeks before the test date. Conus test centers send orders 4 weeks before the test date. Contractors ship tests to arrive just before the planned test date.

*Select only one test date from the published period for DANTES testing and specify that date on the order form.

<http://voled.doded.mil/dantes/exam/02-03htm>

FY03 DANTES Examination Program changes

The FY03 editions of the *DEPH Parts I and II* were distributed to DANTES Test Centers starting in August. If you do not receive your copies by the end of September, please contact the DANTES Exams Program at (850) 452-1063, DSN 922-1063, or send an E-mail to exams@voled.doded.mil. The following are a few of the changes to the FY03 *DEPH*:

ACT/SAT changes

The 2002-2003 ACT retest fee increased from \$24 to \$25.

The 2002-2003 SAT retest fee increased from \$25 to \$26.

DSST changes

Principles of Public Speaking now has two forms of the objective test booklet (SF/SH 815). The Topic Cards remain as SF 829-834 and are used for both the SF and SH 815 exam.

There is no longer a 2-year waiting period for retesting on the same topic card.

CLEP changes

The following CLEP paper-based exams will be withdrawn effective 30 June 2003:

Biology
Chemistry

Western Civilization I
Western Civilization II

Humanities

German Language

Effective 1 October 2003, paper-based CLEP testing will no longer be allowed at DANTES Test Centers.

Excelsior College Examination changes

There is no longer a \$10 surcharge fee for civilians testing at a DANTES Test Center overseas.

Free Online Score Service is now available to examinees. Refer to the Scoring and Reporting section of the *DEPH Chapter 6* for information.

GRE General changes

The Analytic Section of the GRE General Test has been replaced with the Analytical Writing Section.

The GRE General CBT fee increased.

Conus (includes American Samoa, Guam, U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, and Canada) from \$105 to \$115

Overseas from \$130 to \$140

The GRE General POWERPREP® software may be downloaded free of charge any time at <http://www.gre.org/pracmats.html>.

Quarterly Test Inventory report due

The quarterly Test Inventory report from stocking test centers for the quarter ending 30 September is due at the DANTES testing agencies no later than 15 October. Stocking test centers must submit a report on the exams stocked; a negative report is not required for the quarterly report.

Testing/Certification

CLEP English Composition—alternate form

Chauncey Group International/ETS advised us that there is a shortage of the current CLEP General - English Composition form (Test Code 08273). To respond to orders for this test, CGI/ETS is shipping an alternate form, Test Code 08265. If you have 08273 in your current inventory, you may continue administering this test until supplies are depleted. For all new orders of this test, please indicate the Test Code 08265 on the ETS/CGI "Application For Test Materials."

When is the last time you tested on this exam?

What an important question for all DANTES test center counselors and examiners to ask as an individual inquires about testing on DANTES examinations!

Recently, a military member tested on the SAT and only later, after the deadline for his commissioning package had passed, was told that the exam could not be scored because he had tested twice on the same form of the SAT. As clearly stated in the *DANTES Examination Program Handbook (DEPH)*, SAT Chapter, individuals are never allowed to retest on the same form of the SAT.

To prevent invalid test scores, the test examiner must ask examinees, "Have you taken this test within the last _____?"

(To fill in the blank, see the specific *DEPH* chapter for retesting time restrictions.)

DANTES and CompTIA – A new twist

DANTES recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Computing Technology Industry Association (CompTIA). DANTES selected CompTIA to provide opportunities for personnel in the Air Force Reserve, Army National Guard, or Army Reserve to participate in reimbursement programs for IT certification exams administered by CompTIA.

CompTIA will provide professional and occupational certification examinations to military personnel through its two national test vendors, Prometric and VUE.

Representing more than 8,000 computing and communications companies, CompTIA helps its members stay competitive by providing vendor-neutral standards for certification in e-commerce, customer service, and workforce development. CompTIA sets the standard for vendor-neutral certification in the current IT marketplace. Their certification examinations demonstrate a person's ability to learn and work in a multi-vendor environment. The CompTIA certifications are respected and require a reasonable investment of time and money.

Look for information on the availability of CompTIA exams in the near future for other branches of Service. Refer to the DANTES Certification Program Web site, <http://www.voled.doded.mil/dantes/cert/index.htm>.

To access additional information about CompTIA, go to <http://www.comptia.com>. To speak to

DANTES about this program, contact Ms. Sandra L. Winborne, Manager, Certification Programs at DSN 922-1360 or CML (850) 452-1360 or E-mail Ms. Winborne at winborne@voled.doded.mil.

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of Competency Assurance (NOCA) and the Coalition for Professional Certification (CPC).

Several recognizable accomplishments of PCLAC in its first year of existence include:

Preparation of a "toolkit" containing reference materials, web site links, and contacts for professional certification and licensure information.

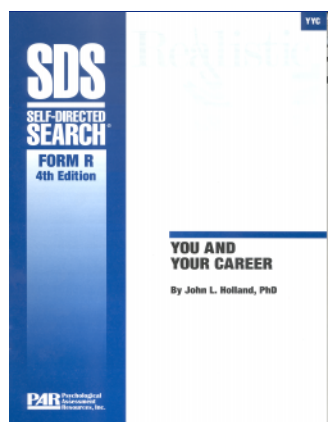
Submission of recommendations to Secretary Principi regarding amendments to the Public Law for clarification.

Presentations by members of PCLAC to the National Association of State Approving Agencies (NASAA) in Salt Lake City, Utah, during its summer conference. PCLAC members addressed the NASAA regarding the certification toolkit and suggested ways to streamline and standardize the certifying organization approval process.

PCLAC is a publicly sanctioned committee and each meeting is announced by the VA in the Federal Registry. The next scheduled meeting will take place on 3-4 September in Washington, DC. Contact Mr. Giles Larrabee, VA and secretary for PCLAC, for information regarding the meeting at (202) 273-7296.

SDS update

The Holland Self-Directed Search (SDS) is a simulated career counseling experience. It is based on Dr. John L. Holland's RIASEC theory that both people and work environments can be classified according to six basic types: Realistic, Investigative, Artistic, Social, Enterprising, and Conventional (RIASEC).



The SDS enables individuals to choose career fields of study that best match their self-reported skills and interests. Extensive research has shown that people whose job and work environments most closely match their personal style and interests tend to consider themselves satisfied and successful with the occupational choices they have made.

The SDS is an easy-to-use, self-administered, self-corrected, comprehensive career exploration tool that allows people to gain insight into the world of work and, with their new self-understanding, discover an occupational "match." This tool is ideal for those not located in close proximity to a counselor.

SDS materials have been received for this fiscal year. Centers may order them using the [DANTES Material Request Form](#).

Beware of scholarship scams

Not long ago, a military education center counselor contacted DANTES about a company trying to sell a Service member information on scholarships for twenty dollars. We advised her there's no reason for any student or potential student to pay for such information. There is a wealth of free information about scholarships online, including a great deal about financial aid on our web site <http://voled.doded.mil/dantes/refpubs/finaid.htm>. There are also several hard copy, printed reference guides in military education centers which contain scholarship information. An example is a reference guide published by Peterson's called *Scholarships, Grants and Prizes*. There's another excellent financial aid guide that Service members can pick up at most education centers called *Need A Lift?*

For further information on this subject, we recommend an article published by ABC News, which includes "Six Signs of a Scam." It can be found at http://more.abcnnews.go.com/sections/business/2020/diaz_schemes_0112120.html.

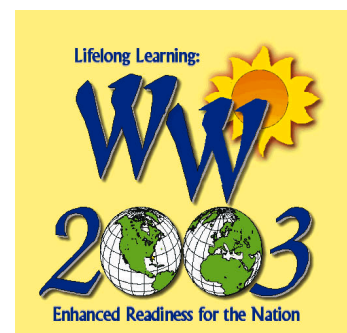
If any Service member or counselor comes across an example of an education scam, please contact Ms. Sheila Nyjordet, DANTES' Reference Publications Manager. Ms. Nyjordet gives briefings on Scams in Higher Education, maintains historical files on scams, and posts scam warnings on DANTES' Military Counselor Network. She can be reached at DSN 922-1763 or (850) 452-1763 or at snyjorde@voled.doded.mil.

Online registration begins for WW 2003

Beginning 1 September, register online to attend the DOD Worldwide Education Symposium.

Go to <http://www.ww-003.com> and register today.

For hotel reservations, call the Orlando World Center Marriott at 1-800-621-0638. Identify yourself as an attendee of the DOD Worldwide Education Symposium.



DOD WORLDWIDE EDUCATION SYMPOSIUM

7-11 July 2003

Orlando World Center
Marriott Resort &
Convention Center
Orlando, Florida

For Symposium information,
go to

<http://www.ww-003.com>

From the Advisor's Desk



MGySgt O'Keefe

"In the Spotlight" with the Chief, DOD Continuing Education, Mr. Gary Woods

by MGySgt James P. O'Keefe, DANTES Special Enlisted Advisor

Mr. Gary Woods assumed duties as Chief, DOD Continuing Education in April of this year. His extensive experience in DOD VoEd is vast and varied. His biography was detailed earlier this year in the *DANTES Information Bulletin* (April 2002). I spoke with Mr. Woods recently on his new role and outlook on the future of DOD Continuing Education. Here are some excerpts from this interview.

Q: "How are you settling into your new role as Chief of Continuing Education for the Department of Defense?"

A: "It's been an interesting and eye-opening transition. To get a better feel for the special challenges and opportunities that face Voluntary Education, I've been visiting offices critical to delivery of education programs to our Service members. I've spent time with senior leadership at each of the Service headquarters to include eArmyU and the Navy College Program; DANTES; the College Board; the American Council on Education (ACE); the Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges (SOC); the Military Installation Voluntary Education Review (MIVER) program office; and the Distance Education and Training Council



Mr. Gary Woods

(DETC), to name a few. I've been impressed with the focus, dedication and professionalism each has brought to the table, obviously to the benefit of the Service member, DOD and the government as a whole. Although that's provided me some very valuable insight, I plan additional visits to the

Coast Guard Voluntary Education program and to experts within the Reserve and Guard, the Veteran's Administration and the Department of Education. Each serves as advocate for some of the educational products that we help deliver to the military community. I also plan to nurture a tighter partnership with the provider institutions and professional

organizations that address the needs of our military members and their dependents. These include the American Association for Adult Continuing Education (AAACE); the American Counseling Association (ACA); the state and regional Advisory Councils on Military Education (ACMEs); the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA); the National Association of Institutions for Military Education Services (NAIMES) and the University Continuing Education Association (UCEA). They all have special capabilities and perspectives that we need to tap to better leverage delivery of educational opportunities to our constituencies."

Q: "How important is the availability of Voluntary Education opportunities to the Services and Service members?"

A: "Very. It impacts directly on the mission capability of the Services. For as long as we've been keeping stats, availability of voluntary education is one of the top three reasons people enlist in the first place. And it's also one of the main reasons those same people stay in the Service. It's pivotal to issues of recruitment and retention for the Services themselves, and it's critical to honing the conceptual and analytical skills of our Service members ... again to the advantage of the Service that has made the investment in the first place. Service members develop thinking skills that make them better members of their Service and their career fields, as well as participants in their local communities."

For the full interview, see <http://voled.doded.mil/dantes/sea/index.htm>.

Do you have a Success Story? E-mail me at jokeefe@voled.doded.mil.

Ten months until the DOD Worldwide Education Symposium 2003!

(And counting...)

Have you seen the latest update Map and Listing of Exhibitors?

Visit <http://www.ww-003.com/Exhibits.htm>

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Be sure the invoice (this is really for just for schools) indicates who the student is, what courses you want us to pay for, your address, your phone number, and the name of your school.

Also for schools: please don't just fax us a copy of the student's account and let us figure what you expect us to pay.

Another one for schools—all TA forms do not necessarily go to DANTES. If you will notice, the bottom of the TA form says, "Institution will mail invoice to:" or words to that effect. If some military installation's address is in that block, you should send the invoice there, not to DANTES. The same holds true for grades—if you have a final grade from a military student, please don't just assume it goes to DANTES. DANTES is not the source of TA for all military students.

If you are a student, please try not to call us for status updates when you don't have a problem. Along the same lines, while we want to provide good customer service, the TA approving official and the school may be able to answer your questions better than we can. If you use the *tahelp@voled.doded.mil* e-mail address, the chances are that we can get you a better, more complete answer with one attempt. If you call, you may have to wait while we research the problem or call back.

If your question regards your Service's TA policy, that question needs to be asked of your Service's Voluntary Education representatives whose job it is to implement Service TA policy.

Please understand that payment will not be made within a few days of your enrollment. We are doing everything we can to reduce our backlog (yes, we have a backlog) but the TA programs of the Services we support are all growing by leaps and bounds. We are bringing additional people on board as quickly as we can to meet the demand, but there are always delays in the hiring process. As a result, the backlog grows and shrinks depending on the personnel assets we can apply to its reduction.

Anything you can do to ensure the school's invoice for Up-Front TA and the TA forms arrive at our office at the same time—in the same fax transmission or mail envelope—will be helpful. As a student you might not be able to influence this process but it solves a lot of problems for us. The more time that passes between our receipt of the TA form and the invoice, the greater the potential for a delay.

Closing facts to remember - we can't pay more than the school bills us, we can't pay more than the TA form authorizes and we can't pay more than the Service's established TA cap.

Upcoming conferences

Florida Advisory Council on Military Education (Florida ACME)

Fall Conference

5-7 November 2002

Ponce de Leon Hotel, Golf &
Conference Center

St. Augustine, Florida

Register online at <http://www.fla-acme.org/registration.asp>.

Visit the Florida ACME web site at
<http://www.fla-acme.org/>.

Pennsylvania Advisory Council for Military/ Veterans Education (PACMVE)

Fall Meeting

7 November 2002

10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

333 Market St.

Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

(717) 787-2414

Council on Military Education in South Carolina (COMESC)

Fall 2002 Conference

13-15 November 2002

Beach Cove Resort

N. Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

POC: Connie Vise

(803) 782-8810

E-mail: cvise@gwm.sc.edu

Council of College and Military Educator (CCME)

CCME Symposium

3-6 February 2003

Menger Hotel

San Antonio, Texas

Visit the CCME web site at

<http://www.ccmeonline.org>

DANTES Information

DANTES

6490 Saufley Field Rd.
Pensacola, FL 32509-5243
<http://voled.doded.mil>

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Barry L. Cobb, Ph.D., Director

Lynn Owens, Editor

Telephone and fax numbers are: DSN 922-(xxxx) or (850) 452-(xxxx).

Office	Phone	Fax	E-Mail
Director's Office	1745	1159	nmock@voled.doded.mil
Enlisted Advisor	1742	1159	jokeefe@voled.doded.mil
Reserve Advisor	1760	1528	habbenhaus@voled.doded.mil
Web Site	1048	1096	webmaster@voled.doded.mil
European Advisor	011-49-6202-80-6008		dantes@hq.hqusareur.army.mil
Far East Advisor	011-822-7915-5581		wmcaleer@voled.doded.mil
Troops to Teachers	1320	1096	ttt@voled.doded.mil
Education Support Dept.	1732	1162	cabernat@voled.doded.mil
Military Evaluations/SOC	1732	1162	ccherry@voled.doded.mil
MIVER/WW Symposium/ACME	1732	1162	plandry@voled.doded.mil
Training	1884	1162	bkeese@voled.doded.mil
Counseling	1389	1588	vharmon@voled.doded.mil
Reference Publications	1763	1588	snyjorde@voled.doded.mil
Military Counselor Network	1763	1588	mcnet_admin@voled.doded.mil
DANTES Publications/ <i>DIB</i>	1132	1158	lowens@voled.doded.mil
Education Programs Dept.	1360	1161	djones@voled.doded.mil
Examinations	1089	1160	exams@voled.doded.mil
Distance Learning	1085	1005	dstlearn@voled.doded.mil
Tuition Assistance	1085	1005	tahelp@voled.doded.mil
Certification	1360	1161	winborne@voled.doded.mil
Distribution Center	1082	1140	ewalker@voled.doded.mil